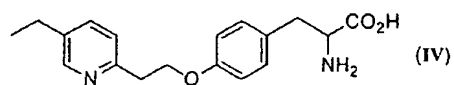


IN THE ABSTRACT

Please substitute the Abstract on the attached, separate page.

ABSTRACT

The present invention relates to a novel compound of formula (IV)



which is an intermediate that can be used for the preparation of pioglitazone. It also relates to a method of obtaining the novel compound (IV) starting from the natural product L-tyrosine, in which the amino group is protected in the form of aromatic imino group, and a method of obtaining pioglitazone from the said intermediate.